



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National
Seashore

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Fire Island News Release

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Spring Opening of Facilities and Activities at Fire Island National Seashore


(Patchogue, New York) Superintendent Dave Spirtes announced that the National Park Service facilities of Fire Island National Seashore will soon be opening for the 2003 season.

The Wilderness Visitor Center at Smith Point, already open on weekends, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., will be open Wednesdays through Sundays, beginning May 21, 2003. Ranger Steve Henderson has added several new temporary exhibits to the viewing room overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Come enjoy an early morning guided walk at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Watch Hill Visitor Center opens on Saturday, May 17, as the Davis Park Ferry Company resumes its service from the Watch Hill Ferry Terminal in Patchogue (phone 631-475-1665). For the spring, the visitor center is open Saturdays 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sundays 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., with a guided walk at 2:00 p.m. each Sunday. Occasional Saturday evening programs will be presented at the Dune Station, near the beach. The Watch Hill Campground re-opens for the season on Friday, May 16; the convenience store will re-open on May 17, and the snack bar will open May 24. Lifeguards also return for limited weekend service over Memorial Day Weekend.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



The old Barrett Beach Marina remains closed during construction. However, the floating dock, restrooms and bay beach facilities at Talisman will be open as they were in 2002. The new dock and refurbished concession facility and restrooms for Barrett Beach are scheduled to open in the spring of 2004.

Sayville Ferry Service resumes daily operations to Sailors Haven and the Sunken Forest on Saturday, May 17 (phone 631-589-8980). Due to the effects of the harsh winter, the Sailors Haven Marina and Store will not open until at least May 23; the snack bar is expected to open later in June. The Sailors Haven Visitor Center was recently given a fresh coat of paint by a dedicated group of volunteers, and will now be open 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on weekends. A ranger-guided Sunken Forest Trail Walk is offered at 11:30 a.m. each Saturday and Sunday this spring. Limited weekend lifeguard service begins over Memorial Day Weekend.

Beginning May 24, the William Floyd Estate in Mastic Beach will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free guided house tours are offered every half hour, allowing you to learn more about the early history of Long Island. Reservations are required for groups of 12 or more: 631-399-2030.

Near the western end of Fire Island, the Fire Island Lighthouse has been open daily from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. New interactive exhibits help you learn about the dynamic barrier island and the history of lifesaving and lighthouses on Fire Island. Guided tours to the top of the light tower, one of the tallest in the country, provide more insight and a great panoramic view. Call 631-661-4876 for more information, reservations.

A new short video program on Fire Island will debut at each visitor center during the Memorial Day weekend. To learn more about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/fiis.